



International
Civil Society
Centre



STRATEGIC PROFILE

2022 – 2024

Our Mission

Our Mission is to strengthen the impact and resilience of international civil society organisations (ICSOs) to support people to change their world for the better.

Our Vision and guiding star is the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with the ambition to end all forms of poverty, achieve social justice and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.



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How we work



Convene

We hold inspiring and challenging events where civil society practitioners can connect and exchange and provide space for co-creation and closer collaboration.



Innovate

With our partners, we scope future trends influential to ICSSOs' impact and legitimacy and analyse innovations for greater impact in these complex, uncertain times.



Collaborate

We develop, coordinate and incubate projects and partnerships that tackle common problems, creating an impact that no organisation can achieve alone.



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How we make a difference

By establishing a strong and standing capacity for trend scanning we

- help ICSOs cope with intersecting developments in a turbulent, uncertain, novel and ambiguous world. Through Scanning the Horizon, a cross-sector community of strategy experts and practitioners, we help identify big trends and analyse important but underexplored drivers of change.
- document and publish innovation and learnings through sector guides, a resource page, podcasts and other media, in order to disseminate our community's insights to civil society.

Through systematic support to ICSO (and sector) transformations we

- help ICSOs analyse power dynamics and accelerate inclusive power shift within and beyond their organisations.
- raise awareness on catalysing digital transformations, particularly their ethical and political dimensions, and the threats and responsibilities that come with them.
- address internal challenges like safeguarding, discrimination due to racism and problematic governance.
- support leaders in their personal and professional challenges through leadership convenings and peer support.

In enabling collaboration to address big challenges we

- tackle the exacerbated global inequalities and vulnerabilities, societal dimensions and the effects on civil society work caused by global developments like COVID-19 and the anti-racism movement.
- counter mis- and disinformation considering the damage it is doing worldwide to civil society.
- exchange and advocate on funding and donor policies, linked but not exclusive to powershift discourse.

Where we work together

Making Voices Heard and Count

The Leave No One Behind Partnership promotes the generation and use of community-driven data to support countries to include the voices of marginalised communities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Solidarity Action Network (SANE)

The network aims to strengthen resilience of and solidarity among civil society actors when faced with civic space restrictions or changing operating conditions. We share experiences, lessons learned and best practices through the Solidarity Playbook and regular SANE curated conversations, explore different forms of solidarity and encourage joint actions.

Accelerating Inclusive Power Shift

The initiative aims to foster more inclusive governance models, create more equitable partnerships, and support ICSSOs in revising their future mandate while intensifying structured donor dialogues to achieve a meaningful power shift in the sector. The project further aims to facilitate learning and exchange, produce guidelines and engage with related initiatives such as the Re-Imagining the INGO initiative (RINGO) and the #ShiftThePower movement.



Participants discuss the future of Civic Space at Global Perspectives.





How we connect

Vision Works

Global CEOs and chairs of leading ICSSOs collaborate over key strategic issues for their organisations and the sector.



Leading Together

Policy, programme and human resources directors discuss best practices and opportunities for joint action.



Global Perspectives

Leaders and innovators from civil society organisations, partners and stakeholders gather annually to explore civil society trends and challenges.



Digital Dialogues

Our exciting series of online dialogues explore civil society perspectives on the accelerating digital world.



International Civic Forum

Leaders from civil society, media, philanthropy and government who are protecting and advancing civic space worldwide gather annually to build trust and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Our community

The Centre's programmes and activities bring together ICSSOs with leaders from civil society networks, think tanks, local communities, business, politics and academia. This intermediary environment allows to leave logos and egos outside and foster effective knowledge and capacity pooling. Voices from communities and local CSOs are an integral part to the Centre's work and thus assure truly participatory and self-reflective partnerships.

Owners & Supporters

The Centre is owned and supported by more than 20 of the largest ICSSOs working across environmental, human rights, social justice and humanitarian themes. Fifteen of them hold equal shares in the Centre, through its not-for-profit limited liability company status. Elected shareholders constitute the governing board, which oversees our work and finances.



The Centre's work is also supported by ICSSOs who are our Core Supporters:



Get involved!



All our events and projects ▶



Frequent webinars ▶



Our newsletter ▶



Our podcast ▶



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